

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1, 3, 6, and 8, as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A heat fixing apparatus for fixing an unfixed image formed on a recording material, comprising:
 - a fixing member;
 - a pressure member in ~~a pressed~~ pressure contact with said fixing member to form a fixing nip through which the recording material bearing the unfixed image is passed;
 - a conductive member ~~coming into contact~~ contactable with the recording material and positioned ~~in~~ on a downstream side of said fixing nip in a conveying direction of the recording material; and
 - bias applying means which applies a bias voltage to at least ~~either~~ one of the fixing member and the conductive member;wherein, in case image formations on a plurality of recording materials are executed in continuation, the bias applying means elevates and lowers the bias voltage in the course of said image formations executed in continuation.

2. (Original) A heat fixing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the image formations on the recording materials are judged to be executed in continuation in case a situation continues where a supply of a succeeding recording material is started before a trailing end of a preceding recording material passes the fixing nip portion.

3. (Currently Amended) A heat-fixing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said bias ~~apply~~ applying means includes:

first bias applying means for applying a bias of a polarity same as that of a toner to said fixing member; and

second bias applying means for applying a bias of a polarity opposite to that of the toner to said conductive member and said pressure member;

wherein, in case of heat fixing the recording materials supplied in continuation in the fixing nip portion, said first bias applying means and said second bias applying means are switched to generate bias voltages elevated and lowered for every fixed or variable number of the recording materials.

4. (Original) A heat-fixing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein, in case said fixing member and said pressure member are in a direct contact without the recording material, in an interval between said preceding recording material and said succeeding recording material, a direction of an electric field between said fixing member and said pressure member is inverted from a direction of the electric field in a state in which the recording material is present in the fixing nip portion.

5. (Original) A heat-fixing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a rectifying element is connected to a conductive portion of said pressure member, and, at a heat fixation of the recording material, the conductive portion of said pressure member is maintained at a polarity opposite to that of the toner.

6. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus for executing an image formation by conveying a recording material to an image forming unit and conveying ~~said~~ the recording material to a heat fixing apparatus thereby fixing an unfixed image to the recording material, wherein the heat fixing apparatus includes:

a fixing member;

a pressure member in ~~a pressed~~ pressure contact with said fixing member to form a fixing nip through which the recording material bearing the unfixed image is passed;

a conductive member ~~coming into contact~~ contactable with the recording material and positioned in a downstream side of said fixing nip in a conveying direction of the recording material; and

bias applying means which applies a bias voltage to at least ~~either~~ one of the fixing member and the conductive member;

wherein, in case image formations on a plurality of recording materials are executed in continuation, the bias applying means elevates and lowers the bias voltage in the course of said image formations executed in continuation.

7. (Original) An image forming apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the image formations on the recording materials are judged to be executed in continuation in case a situation continues where a supply of a succeeding recording material is started before a trailing end of a preceding recording material passes the fixing nip portion.

8. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said bias ~~apply~~ applying means includes:

first bias applying means for applying a bias of a polarity same as that of a toner to said fixing member; and

second bias applying means for applying a bias of a polarity opposite to that of the toner to said conductive member and said pressure member;

wherein, in case of heat fixing the recording materials supplied in continuation in the fixing nip portion, said first bias applying means and said second bias applying means are switched to generate bias voltage elevated and lowered for every fixed or variable number of the recording materials.

9. (Original) An image forming apparatus according to claim 6, wherein, in case said fixing member and said pressure member are in a direct contact without the recording material, in an interval between said preceding recording material and said succeeding recording material, a direction of an electric field between said fixing member and said pressure member is inverted from a direction of the electric field in a state in which the recording material is present in the fixing nip portion.

10. (Original) An image forming apparatus according to claim 6, wherein a rectifying element is connected to a conductive portion of said pressure member, and, at a heat fixation of the recording material, the conductive portion of said pressure member is maintained at a polarity opposite to that of the toner.

Please add Claims 11-20, as follows:

--11. (New) A heat fixing apparatus for fixing an unfixed image formed on a recording material, comprising:

a fixing member;

a pressure member in pressed contact with said fixing member to form a fixing nip through which the recording material bearing the unfixed image is passed;

a conductive member coming into contact with the recording material and positioned on a downstream side of said fixing nip in a conveying direction of the recording material; and

a bias applying circuit which applies a bias voltage to at least either of the fixing member and the conductive member;

wherein, in a case where image formations on a plurality of recording materials are executed in continuation, the bias applying circuit elevates and lowers the bias voltage in the course of said image formations executed in continuation.

12. (New) A heat fixing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the image formations on the recording materials are judged to be executed in continuation in case a situation continues where a supply of a succeeding recording material is started before a trailing end of a preceding recording material passes the fixing nip portion.

13. (New) A heat-fixing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said bias applying circuit includes:

a first bias applying circuit for applying a bias of a same polarity as that of a toner to said fixing member; and

a second bias applying circuit for applying a bias of a polarity opposite to that of the toner to said conductive member and said pressure member;

wherein, in case of heat fixing the recording materials supplied in continuation in the fixing nip portion, said first bias applying circuit and said second bias applying circuit are switched to generate bias voltages elevated and lowered for every fixed or variable number of the recording materials.

14. (New) A heat-fixing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein, in a case where said fixing member and said pressure member are in a direct contact without the recording material, in an interval between said preceding recording material and said succeeding recording material, a direction of an electric field between said fixing member and said pressure member is inverted from a direction of the electric field in a state in which the recording material is present in the fixing nip portion.

15. (New) A heat-fixing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein a rectifying element is connected to a conductive portion of said pressure member, and, at a heat fixation of the recording material, the conductive portion of said pressure member is maintained at a polarity opposite to that of the toner.

16. (New) An image forming apparatus for executing an image formation by conveying a recording material to an image forming unit and conveying said recording material to a heat fixing apparatus thereby fixing an unfixed image to the recording material, wherein the heat fixing apparatus includes:

a fixing member;

a pressure member in pressure contact with said fixing member to form a fixing nip through which the recording material bearing the unfixed image is passed;

a conductive member coming into contact with the recording material and positioned in a downstream side of said fixing nip in a conveying direction of the recording material; and

a bias applying circuit which applies a bias voltage to at least either of the fixing member and the conductive member;

wherein, in a case where image formations on a plurality of recording materials are executed in continuation, the bias applying circuit elevates and lowers the bias voltage in the course of said image formations executed in continuation.

17. (New) An image forming apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the image formations on the recording materials are judged to be executed in continuation in case a situation continues where a supply of a succeeding recording material is started before a trailing end of a preceding recording material passes the fixing nip portion.

18. (New) An image forming apparatus according to claim 16, wherein said bias applying circuit includes:

a first bias applying circuit for applying a bias of a same polarity as that of a toner to said fixing member; and

a second bias applying circuit for applying a bias of a polarity opposite to the that of the toner to said conductive member and said pressure member;

wherein, in a case of heat fixing the recording materials supplied in continuation in the fixing nip portion, said first bias applying circuit and said second bias applying circuit are switched to generate bias voltages elevated and lowered for every fixed or variable number of the recording materials.

19. (New) An image forming apparatus according to claim 16, wherein, in a case where said fixing member and said pressure member are in a direct contact without the recording material, in an interval between said preceding recording material and said succeeding recording material, a direction of an electric field between said fixing member and said pressure member is inverted from a direction of the electric field in a state in which the recording material is present in the fixing nip portion.

20. (New) An image forming apparatus according to claim 16, wherein a rectifying element is connected to a conductive portion of said pressure member, and, at a heat fixation of the recording material, the conductive portion of said pressure member is maintained at a polarity opposite to that of the toner.--